



September 2006

## FERRY & OKANOGAN COUNTY FSA NEWS

### Ferry County FSA

PO Box 323  
84 E Delaware  
Republic, WA 99166  
Phone (509) 775-3390  
Fax (509) 775-3170

### Office Hours

Monday – Friday  
8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

### County Committee

Dave Konz, Chairperson  
Kathy Olson, Vice-Chairperson  
Luanne Finley, Regular Member

### Office Staff

Gary Breiler, CED  
Virginia Lane, PT



### Okanogan County FSA

1251 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave S Rm 103  
Okanogan, WA 98840  
Phone (509) 422-3292  
Fax (509) 422-0532

### Office Hours

Monday – Friday  
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

### County Committee

Phil Brownlee, Chairperson  
Jeff Delfeld, Vice-Chairperson  
Ray Colbert, Regular Member  
Marcia Henneman, Advisor  
James McCuen, Advisor

### Office Staff

Gary Breiler, CED  
Stu Skidmore, FLM  
Judy Adams, PT  
Sandy Hinger, PT  
Jose Limon, FLO  
Cliffene Coyne, PT

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### Next COC Meetings:

Ferry – September 26<sup>th</sup>  
Okanogan – September 28<sup>th</sup>

Meetings start at 10:00 AM

CED – County Executive Director  
FLM – Farm Loan Manager  
FLO – Farm Loan Officer  
PT – Program Technician

FSA Web Site Address:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

WA State Web Site:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>

### ACCESSIBILITY

Persons with disabilities who require special accommodations may contact the county office. FSA is committed to making programs accessible to all customers.



## NONINSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM DEADLINE

The Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP) provides catastrophic coverage on crops considered to be noninsurable by USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA). Participants with NAP coverage are reminded that a written notice of loss (Form CCC-576) for crop losses must be reported promptly to our office within 15 days after the disaster event occurred, or when damage to the crop became evident. This is very important as failure to timely report disaster occurrences could make a crop ineligible for any NAP benefits. Lastly, if the disaster affected NAP crop is not going to be harvested a field appraisal prior to destruction or abandonment of the crop is required, which is the same procedure that is followed with crop insurance.

Producers may now purchase NAP coverage for 2007. The cost of the coverage is \$100 per crop, not to exceed \$300 per producer per county. Upcoming sales closing dates for coverage are as follows:

- ♦ **September 30** — Forage (hay and seed) crops and perennial grazing coverage.
- ♦ **November 20** — Orchard crops.

## FINAL DATE FOR DCP LATE FILED APPLICATIONS

The final day for 2006 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) signup ended on June 1. September 30th is the late filed deadline or put another way it is the contract deadline. Producers must have all missing signatures obtained no later than September 30, 2006. There is a \$100.00 fee for late filed applications.

## FEDERAL FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR AGRICULTURAL DISASTER RELIEF

Agricultural producers who suffered 30 percent or more crop loss due to adverse weather conditions since April 1, 2006 now may be eligible for federal financial assistance. The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently designated Okanogan County as a primary agricultural disaster area making low-interest emergency loans available in the county and surrounding counties.

Under the Emergency Loan program, affected producers are eligible for emergency loans at 3.75 percent interest to repair or rebuild farm buildings or machinery, clear debris from fields so they can be replanted, or replace harvested crops that were lost. Loan amounts are for actual losses. Payment terms are up to 40 years with real estate security. FSA is accepting loan applications in county offices through May 1, 2007.

Ferry County was named as a contiguous county, allowing producers in that county to participate in the disaster relief program.

Because the federal government does not intend to compete with private business, applicants must be unable to obtain credit elsewhere to finance their needs at reasonable rates and terms.

Applicants must be United States citizens or aliens legally admitted for permanent residence, must be established farmers and must have suffered an agricultural loss in a designated or a contiguous county. An applicant's farm must be family-sized. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. FSA has a variety of programs available, in addition to the emergency loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity.

Interested farmers may contact their local FSA office 509-422-3292 in Okanogan for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for Emergency Loans and other programs. Additional information is also available online at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov/fsa.asp>

## COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The nomination period for the 2006 County Committee Elections closed on August 1<sup>st</sup>. The candidates for these elections will be:

- ♦ **Ferry County Candidates:** Incumbent Committee member Dave Konz, and Sheila Anderson.
- ♦ **Okanogan County Candidate:** Stan Stout

The election will take place by mail-in ballot during November through December 4<sup>th</sup>. More information on the candidates will be provided in the next County Newsletter. Thanks to those who have been nominated and stated their willingness to serve on the County Committee.

## NEW LOAN PROVISIONS

FSA commodity loan provisions have recently been revised to make loan applications much simpler and faster. In the past, lien searches were required for all loans and a delay of several days was usually experienced. Under the new provisions, lien searches are only required for loans in excess of \$25,000 or in cases where the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) would be considered at risk. CCC is considered at risk when making a loan to a producer with a history of past loan violations.

## STATE FSA DIRECTOR GOES TO WASHINGTON DC

Former Washington State Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency, James Fitzgerald, has accepted a position as Chief of Staff with the Rural Development Agency in Washington DC. Mr. Fitzgerald will oversee day to day operations of Rural Development. District Director, Robert Nordstrom, from Yakima has been appointed as Acting State Executive Director and will serve in that position until a replacement for Mr. Fitzgerald has been announced.

## NEW TOLL-FREE NUMBER FOR FARM LOAN CUSTOMERS

Now FSA Direct borrowers will be able to check the status of their accounts any time, day or night, using the toll-free telephone number 1-888-518-4983. Information is available in English or Spanish. The first time borrowers call the system, they will enter their tax identification/social security number associated with their loan. They will also need their zip code. Borrowers will create a personal identification number (PIN) to ensure personal information remains secure. Customers must enter their PIN every time they use the system thereafter, and may change it.

## OFFICE CLOSURE

This office will be closed on October 9, 2006 in observance of Columbus Day.

Se habla español en esta oficina de FSA. Si quiere informacion tocante a los programas de crédito, conservacion y otros programas que se administran en esta oficina, por favor visite o llame la oficina de FSA. El número de teléfono es (509) 775-3390 en el condado de Ferry, (509) 422-3292 en el condado de Okanogan. La direccion se encuentra al frente.

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